



2016 The Honda Classic

(The 15th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Feb. 25 – 28, 2016

Purse: \$6,100,000 (\$1,098,000/winner)

PGA National (Champion Course)

Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,140

First-Round Notes – Thursday, February 25, 2016

Weather: Mostly sunny, with a high of 69 degrees. Winds W/NW 15-25 mph.

Due to darkness, the first round was suspended for the day at 6:35 p.m with three players yet to complete their first round. Those players were back in position at 7:45 a.m. Friday, and the first round was completed at 7:51 a.m.

First-Round Leaderboard

Sergio Garcia	65 (-5)
Michael Thompson	65 (-5)
Rickie Fowler	66 (-4)
William McGirt	66 (-4)

Sergio Garcia

In just his fourth start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, and second of the calendar year, Sergio Garcia followed an eagle-2 at the second with a birdie at the third, en route to a 5-under 65.

Garcia is making his sixth start in The Honda Classic, with a T8 in 2014 his only top-10 finish.

Garcia's 65 today is his best score in the event (21 rounds) and marks just the second time he has managed to open The Honda Classic without an over-par score. En route to a T13 finish in 2009, he opened with a 3-under 67.

Garcia, an eight-time winner on the PGA TOUR, is in search of his first win since the 2012 Wyndham Championship. Garcia came close to the winner's circle last year in Florida at THE PLAYERS Championship. In a three-hole aggregate playoff with Kevin Kisner and Rickie Fowler, he ended up sharing second with Kisner.

In his only start on the European Tour this season, Garcia finished T7 at the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters.

Sergio has previously held an 18-hole lead/co-lead 10 times, with the 2008 PLAYERS Championship being the only one which resulted in victory. His last 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR was at the 2013 Masters (finished T8).

Michael Thompson

2013 Honda Classic champion Michael Thompson birdied his last hole, No. 18 to get to 5-under 65 and claim a share of the 18-hole lead with Sergio Garcia.

En route to his win in 2013, Thompson was three strokes back after a 3-under 67.

Thompson is making his fifth start in The Honda Classic this week. Following his 2013 victory, his lone PGA TOUR win, Thompson missed the cut in 2014 and finished T44 in 2015.

Thompson is making his 10th start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, with a T20 at the Sanderson Farms Championship his lone top-20 finish.

This marks Thompson's fifth time holding a lead/co-lead after 18 holes on the PGA TOUR. He most recently held a share of the first-round lead at the 2015 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open earlier this season. Of his four previous 18-hole lead/co-leads, his best result was a T2 at the 2012 U.S. Open.

First-Round Lead Notes

Since 2000, the only players to convert an 18-hole lead/co-lead into victory at The Honda Classic were Dudley Hart (2000), Jesper Parnevik (2001) and Justin Leonard (2003).



Through 14 events on the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, only three players have managed to parlay that position into a win. Most recently, Hideki Matsuyama achieved the feat at the Waste Management Phoenix Open.

After 18 holes last year, Jim Herman led by one with a 5-under 65. Since moving to PGA National in 2007, the lowest opening-round score belongs to Rory McIlroy, who opened the 2014 event with a 7-under 63.

The highest 18-hole lead at The Honda Classic since 2007 was Spencer Levin's 3-under 67 in 2011.

Rickie Fowler

With a 4-under 66, Rickie Fowler was the only player in the field to play the first round without a bogey on his card.

Fowler, a Jupiter, Fla., resident is making his seventh-consecutive start at The Honda Classic, with his best finish being T7 in 2012.

In five starts on the PGA TOUR this season, Fowler's top finishes include a fifth-place finish at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions and playoff loss at the Waste Management Phoenix Open. Fowler won the ABU Dhabi Golf Championship in January.

Fowler claimed his second and third PGA TOUR titles in 2015 at THE PLAYERS Championship and Deutsche Bank Championship, en route to a fourth-place finish in the FedExCup standings.

Fowler comes to this week's Honda Classic ranked fifth in the Official World Golf Rankings, a career best.

Fowler hit 11/14 fairways in regulation, 15/18 greens and needed 30 putts to complete his round.

William McGirt

Making his sixth-consecutive start in The Honda Classic, William McGirt birdied his last three holes (Nos. 16-18) to open with a 4-under 66.

McGirt opened with a 5-under 65 in 2014, to trail Rory McIlroy by two strokes. McGirt would go on to miss the 54-hole cut, following a third-round, 8-over 78.

McGirt remains in search of his first top-20 finish at PGA National. Last year's T22 is his best showing in the event.

McGirt remains in search of his first career PGA TOUR win this week, in his 156th TOUR start. He has collected a share of second place on three occasions; 2012 and 2013 RBC Canadian Open, 2015 Sanderson Farms Championship (2015-16 PGA TOUR Season).

McGirt is making his ninth start of the 2015-16 season where, in addition to his T2 finish at the Sanderson Farms Championship, he also collected a top-10 finish (T8) at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

McGirt hit 9/14 fairways in regulation and 13/18 greens. He needed 28 putts to complete his round.

Padraig Harrington

2005 and 2015 Honda Classic champion Padraig Harrington struggled in round one, opened with a 3-over 73. After round one last year, Harrington was two strokes back with a 3-under 67.

The only player to win The Honda Classic in consecutive years was Jack Nicklaus in 1977 and 1978.

Daniel Berger

Jupiter, Fla. resident and 2014-15 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year Daniel Berger opened with a 3-over 73.

In his first start in The Honda Classic last year, Berger lost on the second hole of sudden death, No. 17, to Harrington.



En route to last season's Rookie of the Year honors, Berger amassed six top-10 finishes. In addition to the playoff loss at PGA National, he also finished solo-second at the BMW Championship in the FedExCup Playoffs.

The 22-year-old former Florida State University Seminole is making his eighth start of the season, where he remains in search of his first top-10 finish.

Phil Mickelson

Making his third-consecutive start in The Honda Classic, Phil Mickelson opened with a 1-under 69. In last year's first round, he opened with a 1-over 71 in round one en route to a T17 finish.

Mickelson is now a perfect 5/5 at posting a score of sub-70 in his first round on the PGA TOUR this season.

Mickelson is making his sixth overall start in The Honda Classic; 1995/MC, 2001/T27, 2002/T11, 2014/MC and 2015/T17).

This marks Mickelson's fifth start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season (CareerBuilder Challenge in partnership with the Clinton Foundation/T3, Farmers Insurance Open/MC, Waste Management Phoenix Open/T11 and AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am/2nd).

Mickelson is in search of his 43rd career PGA TOUR win and first since the 2013 Open Championship.

Since 1993, Mickelson has recorded at least one win each year, except for 1999, 2003, 2014 and 2015.

Rory Mclroy

2012 Honda Classic champion Rory Mclroy struggled in round one, opening with a 2-over 72. He made five bogeys and a double bogey at the par-4 14th hole

Mclroy, the highest-ranked player in the Official World Golf Rankings in the field (No. 3), is coming off a T20 finish at last week's Northern Trust Open.

Mclroy is in search of his 12th career PGA TOUR win and first since last season's Wells Fargo Championship.

Erik Compton

Miami's Erik Compton opened with a 2-under 70 in his sixth start in The Honda Classic. Tomorrow marks the 24th anniversary of Compton's first heart transplant (2/26/1992).

Miscellaneous Notes

Four of the world's top-10 ranked players are competing at this year's Honda Classic:

Player	OWGR	R1 Score
Rory Mclroy	3	72
Rickie Fowler	5	66
Patrick Reed	9	74
Branden Grace	10	73

The week of The Honda Classic offers the final opportunity to qualify for next week's World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship at Trump National Doral. Players not previously eligible can qualify by being inside the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking (players inside the top 50 in the OWGR as of 2/22/16 cannot drop out) or the top 10 or the FedExCup standings following The Honda Classic.

As it celebrates its 35th year of sponsoring this event, American Honda Motor Company joined the PGA TOUR and tournament host organization Children's Healthcare Charity on Wednesday in announcing a five-year extension. The additional term will carry Honda's title sponsorship through the 2021 tournament, and take the company's involvement into its 40th year. Honda is the longest-running continuous tournament sponsor on TOUR.

During today's first round of The Honda Classic, Alex Cejka aced the 17th hole with an 8-iron from 177 yards. As the Official Mortgage Sponsor of the PGA TOUR, Quicken Loans will award one year's worth of mortgage payments to Michelle S. from Brockton, Mass. from the Quicken Loans Hole-In-One Sweepstakes to celebrate the ace.



Scoring Averages at the par-70 PGA National:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
Thursday	35.650	36.657	72.307	---

The par-4 14th hole played the toughest during the first round, yielding a 4.713 average, with the par-5 3rd hole (4.503) being the easiest.

"Bear Trap" averages – No. 15 (3.171/T7 toughest), No. 16 (4.157/T7 toughest), No. 17 (2.950/15th toughest).

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Rickie Fowler (66)